

2026

42nd ANNUAL MEETING

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

*Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area
and Campus of William & Mary*



Marcia Long

In Search of the Colonial Landscape
“A Revolutionary Idea”

Williamsburg, Virginia
April 10 – 11, 2026
Friday and Saturday

Optional Sunday Tours and Lunch

southerngardenhistory.org

Registration

Online: www.southerngardenhistory.org

By mail: SGHS, P.O. Box 631, New Roads, LA 70760

Registration: Limited to 200

Friday & Saturday conference fee \$500 per person

Optional Sunday tours & lunch \$125 per person

Optional donation to The Randy Harleson Scholarship Fund.

Cancellations made by March 10, 2026 will be eligible for a full refund less 5% handling fee. Refunds for cancellations after March 10, 2026 will be determined by available funds after all conference expenses have been paid.

Contacts:

Meeting and Program Info:

Judy Perry *1-(757)-672-1025

perryjb@cox.net

Registration & SGHS Membership Info:

Aimee Moreau * 1-(318)421-9144

membership@southerngardenhistory.org

Accommodations:

The host hotel for all guests, programs, tour departures:

Williamsburg Lodge, Autograph Collection Hotel

310 South England Street

Williamsburg, VA 23185

USA +1-(855)-231-7240

Booking website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/51073595>

Cut-off-date is 5 pm on March 12, 2026

\$259 room rate includes complimentary access to Historic Area Shuttle, Discount admission ticket to historic area duration of the meeting. Self-parking - \$20 per night.

Airline Flights and Rental Cars

1 Richard E. Byrd Terminal Drive

Richmond International Airport, VA 23250-2400



Colonial Williamsburg

As the nation celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Colonial Williamsburg is the place to be in 2026. Come see, feel and understand how the colonists lived, where history comes alive in original buildings and restored gardens.

The College of William & Mary (1693) educated George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and other patriots. View the Wren Building, the oldest college building still standing in America and its' historic campus. Along both sides of the James River, plantations many whom we celebrate today remain just as they were. Join us as we search for the colonial landscape.

Colonial Williamsburg and surrounding areas – Jamestown and Yorktown – are rich in colonial history. Consider arriving early or staying an extra day. Suggested sites to visit include: Within walking distance - Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Museum, the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and shopping at Merchants Square. Within 20 - 30 minutes driving distance - Historic Jamestowne – Jamestown Rediscovery “the lost fort”, The Nathalie P. & Alan M. Voorhees Archaearium, Jamestown Settlement, American Revolution Museum of Yorktown, Yorktown Battlefields and Visitor Center.



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Welcome

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the **Southern Garden History Society (SGHS)** set in the heart of Colonial Williamsburg Historic District on 301 acres. It is the world's largest living history museum where the nation's origin story begins. A walk through the Historic Area will transport you to the 1770's where you will view the past through the "people" who lived there and the shops and taverns where they worked, the homes where they lived and the gardens they tended. Costumed and ready to speak to you as voices from the past, these Nation Builders remind you of a life from long ago with both the joys and the hardships they encountered.

Friday, April 10

Conference Registration – Williamsburg Lodge

Begin your morning with on your own activities – visits to local museums and nearby historic Jamestown and Yorktown. *Lunch on your own.*

Our meeting begins at noon, convened by President Derek Wade. Our afternoon speakers will share an overview of Colonial Williamsburg architecture (Mark J. Wenger), Custis Garden - the latest archaeological discovery (William D. Rieley) and the Colonial Williamsburg new master plan (Jack Gary.) Afterwards, guided walking tours of the Custis Square and the Governor's Palace Gardens will give us a glimpse of the elegant side of colonial life. In the evening, we take a spirited walk to Shield's Tavern for libations and a colonial repast, led by the Fife and Drum Corps.



Saturday, April 11

In the morning, following a Continental Breakfast in the Lodge Colony Room, we reconvene to an impressive roster of speakers. Subjects include the College of William & Mary (W&M) Landscape (Tony Orband), Garden Archaeology in Virginia (Nick Lucchetti), A Garden Restoration Journey (Peggy Singlemann), GCV Historic Garden Fellowships (Candy Crosby) and Saving our Historic Viewsheds (Lynn Crump.) After lunch, we shall experience guided walking tours of the W&M campus to see the c.1695 Wren building, the Sunken Garden, the Reveley Garden, the Anderson-Kale Daffodil Tribute Garden and then walk to the Historic District to stroll through the streets where homes, shops and taverns with gardens were used for growing food and as a respite in the busy daily life of the colonists. Our cocktails and dinner will take place in the Virginia Room as we celebrate with special guests, the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the Southern Garden History Society in this year of 2026.



Sunday, April 12

8:30 am – 3 pm

Optional Bus Tours

Tour #1 *Surry County Plantation Tour (50-person limit)*
Smith's Fort, Chippokes State Park (picnic lunch), Bacon's Castle

*In 1609 Captain John Smith built his new fort on this property along Gray's Creek that flows to the James River. Visit the c. 1752 house with its Arthur Shurcliff designed landscape and tulip poplar allée. *Bacon's Castle, reveals a surprise discovery of a 17th century large formal English garden. *Chippokes State Park encompasses a 1400-acre farm, continuously in use for nearly four centuries. It features three notable 18th and 19th century houses, and the remains of a 1920's English style formal garden.

Tour #2 *Charles City County Plantations (100-person limit)*
Sherwood Forest, Berkeley (picnic lunch), Westover

*Sherwood Forest, c. 1720, is the longest frame house in America and home to President John Tyler and the Tyler family since 1842. With twenty-five acres of terraced gardens and lawn, it was designed in the mid-19th century. *Westover Plantation, a handsome Georgian home c. 1750, presides over 1025 acres with commanding views of the James River. The formal gardens feature vintage wrought iron gates. *Berkeley Plantation, c. 1726, a Georgian mansion and home to the Harrison family – including a signer of the Declaration of Independence and two U.S. presidents. The terraced gardens were restored in the Colonial Revival style by Alden Hopkins.

